

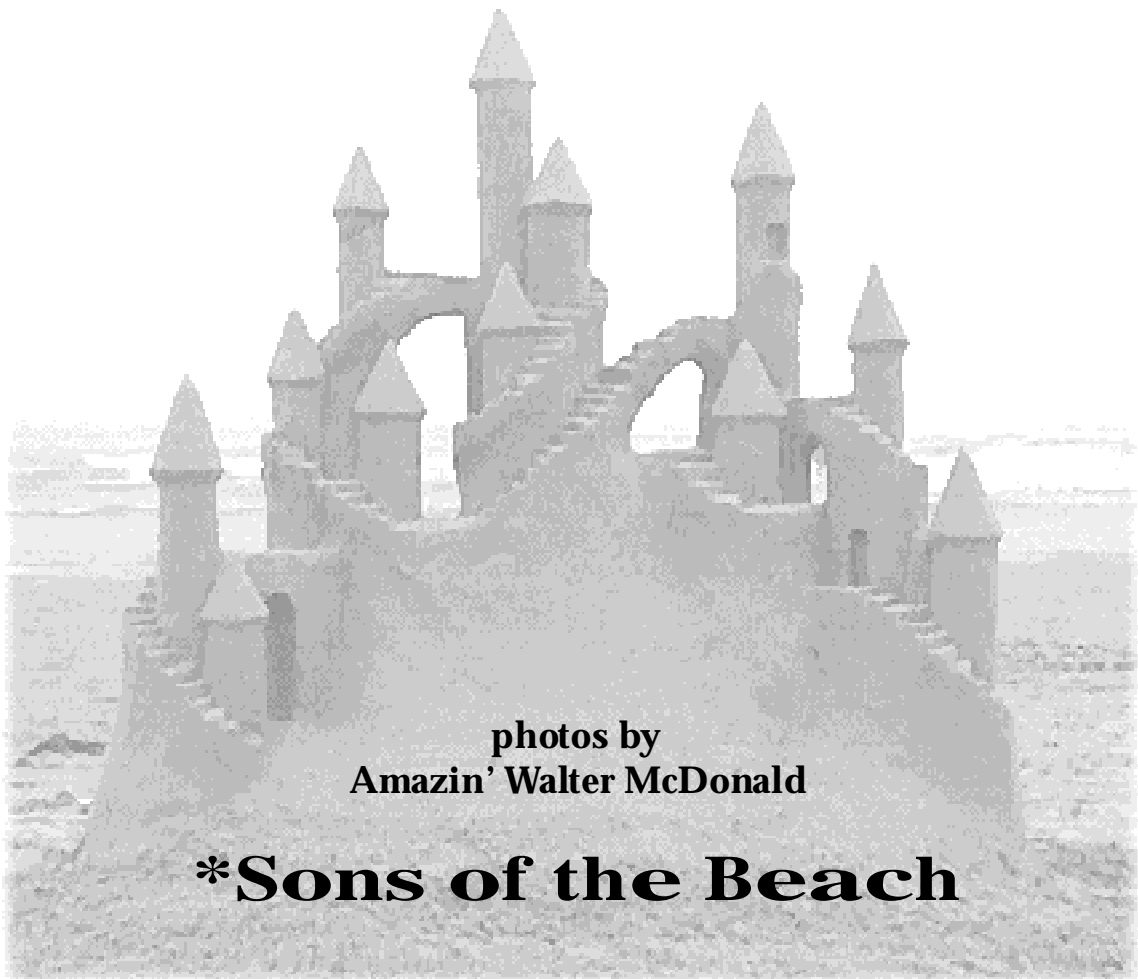
The S.o.B.*

“take me to the beach”

Sand Castle Book

by

Lucinda “sandy feet” Wierenga



photos by

Amazin' Walter McDonald

***Sons of the Beach**

More than you would ever want to know about the

Sons of the Beach

CONTESTS

The Sons of the Beach began competing at a professional level in 1987, when we took second place in the masters division of the Neptunefest Contest in Virginia Beach. Since then, we have competed at the World Championships at Harrison Hot Springs, British Columbia - which is an invitational - four times; three times as a team.

In 1996, we competed against each other in the solo division. Amazin' Walter's sculpture, entitled "Owed to Gaudi" took third place in the solo division, while feet's piece "Sandcastle: Click Here" won the "Best Handstacked" Award.

For the past eleven years, the Wizards have worked with the South Padre Island Chamber of Commerce in organizing and promoting local sand sculpture contests, including the annual South Padre Island Sand Castle Days scheduled for the third weekend in October. The SoBs help organize the event and build a demonstration sculpture in the three days leading up to the contest.

CONTRACTS

For the past ten years the Wizards have been hired by various South Padre Island resort properties to build weekly demonstration castles throughout the summer and on into the fall season. In addition, we build "personalized" castles for numerous private parties, malls, conventions, marriage proposals, promotional events, corporate team building exercises and advertising campaigns - both locally and throughout the country.

We get a lot of our work right on our home beach building demonstration castles for convention and other groups meeting on South Padre Island, TX. In 1987, we organized the building of the world's longest sand sculpture, the 10,760 ft long Millerpede - as noted in the '88-'90 editions of the *Guinness Book of World Records*.

PUBLICITY

In April of 1997, the SOB's were the focus of a 30 second TV spot for Best Buy Corp. The ad features Amazin' and feet building a castle on the beach and working on our award-winning web-site in feet's office. In the summer of 2000, sandy feet was featured in the LandsEnd kid's catalogue - which came out just about the time CNN viewer's were seeing the sand castle central site URL flashing across their screens every half hour...

THE SOB TECHNIQUE

While other professional sand castle building teams create spectacular sculptures and faithful replicas by using forms, heavy equipment and crowds of volunteers, the SOB technique is different in that all structures - towers, walls, arches and combinations of the three - are individually constructed by Amazin' Walter, then intricately carved by sandy feet. No two castles are alike. The building/carving process provides spectators with a unique form of entertainment, as well as useful tips and instruction which they may later apply to their own sandcastle building experiences on the beach.

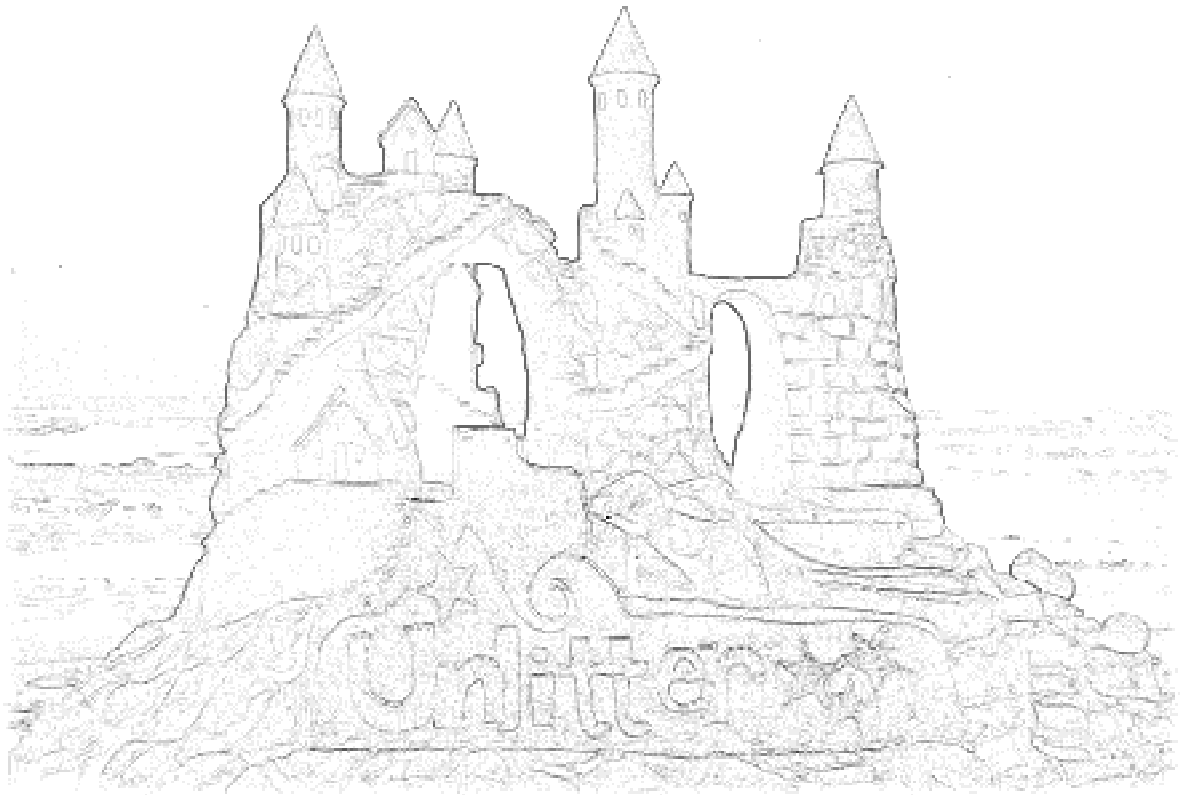
The SOB sandcastling technique is succinctly and entertainingly presented in their first book, *Sand Castles Step-by-Step*, published in July of 1990 by Meadowbrook Press. Though currently out of print, the book was released in Japanese in May 1997. You are looking at the new and improved English version.

Since 1990, we have put new emphasis on the "helping others have fun" aspect of being an SOB by teaching others how to build better sandcastles. Just an hour's worth of instruction - with tips on what to build, how to build and how to find or make carving tools - have helped literally thousands of people have more fun at the beach.

To find out more about who we are and what we do please visit our company web-site at

<http://sonsofthebeach.com>

At <http://sandcastlecentral.com/> you will find a comprehensive and up-to-date resource for all things sandsculpture, including a list of master sculptors, contest information, links to other sandsculpting sites -- and LOTS of photos.



The S.o.B. Pledge:

**"I promise to HAVE FUN
Help others HAVE FUN
and
UNLITTER!"**

unlitter: to properly dispose of more garbage than you generate

Beta Version - Formatted to PDF 9/00

This book was created in Pagemaker on a Power Macintosh - content and design by sandy feet; photography by Amazin' Walter, with additional photos provided by sandy feet and Dennis Barrett. Many of the illustrations were taken from *Sandcastles Step-by-Step* as originally drawn by Alan Carrington.

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Introduction

Some 15 years ago I fell in love with the gritty, crystalline substance that blankets the beaches of South Padre Island, Texas. I landed there by chance. Meeting Amazin' Walter - a serious sand guy with other amazing abilities - was another pivotal occurrence. Another beach or another clown and I might never have had my eyes opened to sand's amazing properties. I am one lucky SoB.

I never saw myself as the "artistic type." If you cannot draw a convincing stick person and are worried that you will not be able to build a good sandcastle, then please meet a person who has walked a mile in your flip flops. Over the past decade, we have taught literally thousands of people how to build a better sandcastle. If you are interested enough to be reading this book, I am pretty confident we can teach you too. Don't live by the beach? Build yourself a sandbox! Not artistic? It's not a requirement. Don't like to get sandy? Well, there might be a problem here....

Serious sand sculpture, simply put, is tossing sand into the sky and convincing it to stay there long enough to be carved into something interesting. Sandsculpting is -- not exactly a sport, but more physical than an art form -- requiring a strong back and a light touch. At the professional level, sandsculpting has much in common with figure skating and ballet in that it is competitive, real time art. Of course you do not have to be "serious" about it to have fun with it -- but the more you build, the better you get, the more fun you will have. *Serious* fun.

This book was written for the "beach person" who has perhaps already discovered

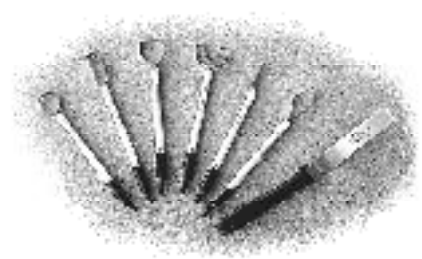
that wet sand does tricks and would like to discover how to make it do even better tricks. Our goal is to clue you in on some shortcuts to creating your best sandcastle ever - as simply as possible. I'm not going to try to convince you that carving sand is a useful and worthwhile activity that everyone should regularly engage in... even though it really is. You will just have to discover that for yourself.

The Tools

We'll be honest: we want to sell you a set or two, so the carving suggestions within these pages are closely tied to the tools and how they can best be used. But we will also be honest and tell you that you do not *need* specialized tools of any sort. "Found tools" lurking in your kitchen and junk drawers - or even free plasticware - will suffice.

But if you want the best - and want to get the most out of this book - you can order a set of tools directly from us by 1. Calling SoB World Headquarters (956-761-6222), 2. Writing us at P.O. Box 2694, South Padre Island, TX, or 3. Visiting our web page at <http://unlitter.com/shop/> - where you will also find links to contest information, a master sculptor list, lots of photos and more sand sculpting resources then you can shake a trowel at.

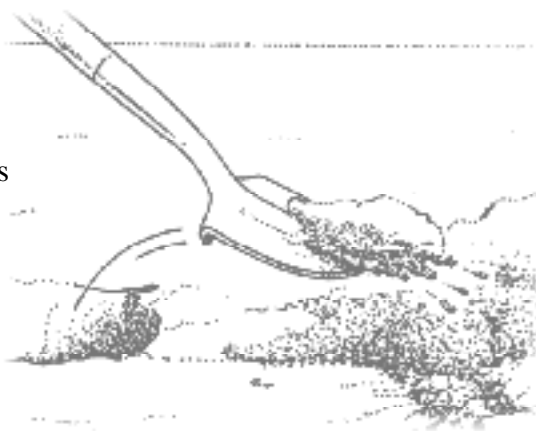
Enjoy!



Getting Started

What you need:

Sand - This may seem a bit obvious.... but one woman's sand is another man's gravel. Generally speaking, fine, flat-grained, unwashed sand is better than the alternatives. If you are at a beach, you don't have a lot of choice here, but it can help when you are looking for sandbox material from a commercial sandlot.



Water - Maybe not as obvious but every bit as important as good sand is a good water source. This should be easy if you are on a beach. We like to start by digging a hole down to the water. Pick a spot just above the point where the highest waves are washing up — where the wet sand meets the dry — and dig. A **long-handled shovel** comes in very handy for this part.

Buckets - An alternative to digging a hole is building out of a bucket; we like the 5-gal. variety. Unless you have a hose handy, you will need two buckets (at least) - one to carry water and one to mix the sand and water in.

Carving tools: You probably have excellent sandcastle carving tools buried in kitchen drawers and tools boxes and you didn't even know it. Most kitchen knives and trowels can be used for sandcastle carving - anything with a straight edge - but metal cuts cleaner than plastic.

Building In A Sandbox

A couple of buckets will come in handy here. Just fill one up with sand and then pour on the water until the sand is thoroughly saturated and the water puddles on top.

This is also a good technique to employ on the beach when you are building too far away from your hole or when you are going for major altitude.

Building On the Beach

The easiest way to get started on the beach is to dig a hole. Pick a spot where the wet sand meets the dry (taking into account tidal trends) and keep digging until you hit water. Keep in mind that you are aiming for *depth*, not width. The hole will get wider as you begin pulling wet sand from its depths.

Pack the sand from your hole into a pile. This will serve as the base for your largest tower.

See what's happening in MY sandbox at <http://sandyfeet.com/sand/sandbox/>



get the pounding out of your system here

Cool Things You Can Do With Wet Sand

Everyone knows how to dribble! Our method is just a **modified dribble technique using larger handfuls of sand - very LARGE and very WET handfuls.**

Prepare your base for building by packing the loose sand. Pull in the edges and pound the top flat - so that your structures do not slide off the edge.

Prepare your hole by mixing the sand and water - and we don't mean just wiggle your fingers around in it! Really dig deep, pulling the heavier, compacted sand up and thoroughly mixing it with the water so that all the chunks break up and flow.

The Technique - Scooping

There are two ways to scoop sand out of your hole: the right way and the wrong way. Not surprisingly, most people instinctively scoop the wrong way - so I am going to insist you fight those instincts. Since you will soon discover that big fat things are easier to carve than little skinny things, build BIG! To build big, you need big handfuls of sand. You do *not* need big hands to get big handfuls -- *if* you scoop the right way.



The Right Way: Using your hands like a backhoe, scoop out a large doublehandful of super wet sand from the bottom of the hole, pulling the sand towards you. Keep your fingertips pointed towards your stomach, even as you continue to pull sand from the hole.

The Wrong Way: You can't get near as high a volume of sand if you pull it from the sides. Furthermore, your hands will be in the wrong position to place the sand.



Moving Sand

Move that sand fast so you don't lose all the water before you get to your destination. Start building your castle on top of the mound of sand you dug from the hole. Give your self a BIG mound to start with: it will help you attain altitude quicker and give the water someplace to drain.

Note: Your hole will get larger as you pull sand from it. It won't get deeper, but it will get wider. So build at least a foot from your hole - anything closer is likely to fall over the edge before you will get a chance to carve it. If you find your hole endangering your structure, start pulling the sand from the opposite side of the hole.

Jiggling

If you are like most of our students, your natural tendency will be to pound the sand to make it go where you want it to. Ignore your instincts! If your goal is to attain altitude (and it is), pounding the sand will only bring it down. The key to our technique is the jiggle. Gently vibrating the wet sand as you place it will allow it to settle and form a tight bond with the layer beneath it. Jiggle *only* the wet sand you have just placed - not the whole structure!

Why Won't It Work For ME?!?

Maybe the sand you are working with has a short supply of sticky stuff. You can remedy this sad state of affairs by adding clay (either lump or dry, diluted in water).

A more likely reason for falling towers is that you are not using enough water. Keep trying!



If you are building with enough water, your structure will be sturdy enough to carve into multiple peaks with lots of undercutting.

Amazin' Walter sez:



Mo' water! Not wet enough! Mo' water!

Building Structures

It is very important to master the art of creating large, sturdy structures before you attempt to go any further. Strive for height and mass; it will impress your friends and give you more options when you begin carving.



Scoop...



Plop...



Flatten...



Jiggle!

Build a Tower

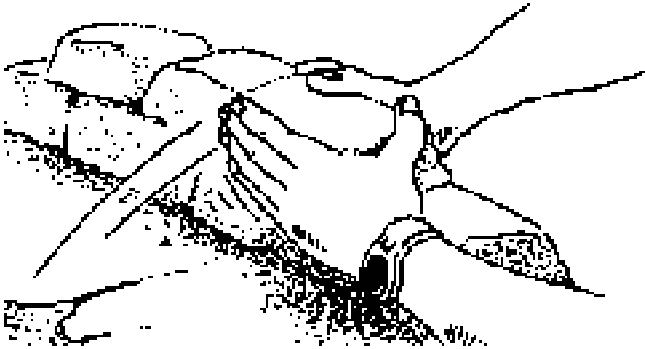
A tower is nothing more than a stack of sand patties piled on top of each other. Use smaller handfuls as you gain altitude so that the tower tapers at the top and doesn't get top-heavy and fall over before you get to carve it.

Start by mixing your sand and water to a smooth consistency. Scoop out the largest handful you can - the bigger the base, the taller you can build - and plop it down -- gently! -- on the pile of sand that you dug out of your hole. Do not constrict the wet sand, especially near the bottom.... you want it to spread.



Flatten your handfuls of wet sand into pancakes by jiggling them with gentle pressure. DO NOT pound, push, pat, pack, press or pummel the sand into submission! The goal is to distribute the water consistently throughout the patty so it settles into and binds to the patty below.

As you attain altitude, apply less pressure on the top and jiggle the sides more. Do not jiggle the whole tower! You can only vibrate the sand that is still super wet. If you attempt to jiggle sand that has already set, it will break the bond holding the layers together and compromise your structure's integrity. If jiggling does not make the sand spread, you are not using enough water. Mix up the sand and water in the bottom of your hole and try again.



Build A Wall

We use walls to connect towers to other towers and to create staircases. You can carve your name on a wall or tunnel through it as well.

Once again, pull a double handful of wet sand from the hole. This time, instead of flattening it into a pancake,

hold the sides between your flattened hands, jiggle and hold until the water runs through so that the sand takes a brick shape. Note that you should not be putting any pressure on the tops of your bricks at all. Keep your hands flat and parallel to each other - about 3-4 inches apart so your bricks are large and uniform. (Once again, fat walls are easier to carve than skinny walls!)

Keep laying bricks end to end for the desired length of the wall, then lay another layer on top, repeating until you reach the desired height.



building a wall - side view



building a wall - top view

To form a staircase, first carve the wall into a descending ramp, then cut in individual steps. (We'll get to that part later!)

Cut a Tunnel

If you have built your wall with enough water, you can cut a tunnel through it using a pastry knife or any similarly shaped tool. Tips: Break into the wall from both sides and run your knife around the edge to make it smoothly rounded.



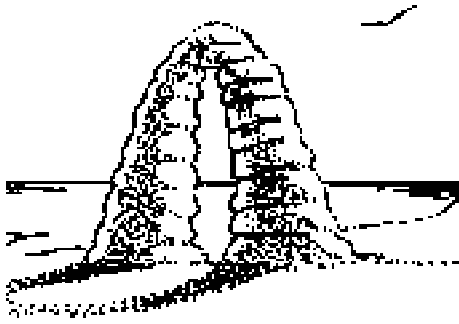
smoothing a tunnel



Amazin' Walter sez:

Stacked sand is happy sand!

Build a Free-Standing Arch

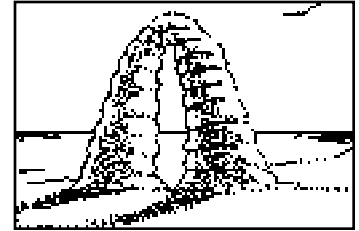


We are somewhat famous for our soaring arches, and here you will find the secret to building them.

We build arches the same way the ancient Romans did - using a keystone. A few tips: keep your towers close together for starters -- once you have mastered the technique, you will find it easier to span larger areas; do not try to pack or compress sand -- let it flow; when you build a sturdy arch, try building a small tower at the top of the arch. Place a ball on top of *that* and you may see the beginnings of a long-legged cowboy who has spent too much time on a horse...



1. Start two towers fairly close together. Remember to jiggle! Continue to build towers straight until you want them to start arching.



2. Using your other (or a buddy's) hand as support, plop your pancake so that it slopes over the side towards the other tower.



3. Repeat on other tower. Continue working from one side to the other, constantly bringing the ends closer to one another while still building on top of the sand already in place.



4. When the ends are very close, you should be able to join them with the "keystone" - the final plop of wet sand that holds the arch together.



5. Continue padding arch top to desired thickness, being careful to maintain support from underneath. Do not attempt to pack or force sand into place but jiggle and allow liquid sand to flow where you want it to go.



Make a “South Texas Snowball”

It's really easy! And there are a lot of cool things you can do with them. Experiment with different sizes.

There are some important differences between a ball made from sand and one made from snow. First of all, experienced snowball-makers know you have to compact and force the snow to stay together. If you try this with sand your ball will merely disintegrate. Once again, we are letting the water do the packing for us, so do not try and force it.

Secondly, these balls are very heavy and they make a big mess when they land - so please do not throw them at anyone.

After you have followed the directions at right, polishing the ball with very dry sand should enable you to make a very round, very solid sphere of sand which may then be placed on top of a tower or wall or carved into a variety of shapes - try something simple such as a heart or a sunburst. Or, try stacking three different-sized balls on top of each other to make a “South Texas Snowman!”



Start by scooping out a very large handful of super-wet sand from the bottom of your hole or your mix bucket.



Next, take a handful of drier sand from the side of the hole and place on top of the wet sand.



Now take yet another handful of super wet sand from the hole and place on top of the drier sand - so that you have a “sand sandwich.”



Toss the whole mess back and forth between your hands - gently! so that it all melts together into one big blob. It should still be pretty wet - wet enough that it will drip between your fingers if you stop tossing it around.



Finally, roll the blob in very dry sand - the driest available - while continuing to shape it in the form of a sphere.



Tools of the Trade

Most humans come into the world fully equipped with a serviceable set of sandcastle carving tools (hands) -- but to get the crisp edges and smooth surfaces that astound, you will need a set of carving tools. Pictured at right are the contents of my tool bag and - as you can see - there is quite a variety.



For basic shaping and smoothing, almost anything with a thin, straight edge will work -- including kitchen knives, putty knives or paint scrapers, trowels, etc. But for fine detail and carving those hard-to-get-to surfaces, you will want to acquire a variety of specialty tools.



“better than nothing”

A plastic knife makes a serviceable basic shaping tool - break off the end and it can be used to carve doors and windows as well. Use the spoon for scalloped edges and arched doorways. A broken fork is transformed into a crude but functional column tool. (Hints: don't scrape too deep and use a brush to remove loose sand afterwards.)

Found/Made Tools

Good sandcastle carving tools can be found cheaply at flea markets, fast food joints -- and may even be located in as close a spot as your kitchen or garage.

We call these the “better-than-nothing sandcastle carving tools” - modified plasticware that is easily obtainable. Paint brushes in a variety of sizes are useful for smoothing knife marks and brushing away loose sand. The pointed handle can be used to carve large rocks around the base of your castle. It is a good idea to carry a drinking straw for blowing out loose sand from cracks and crevices.



Also see what kind of effects you can get using melonballers, grapefruit knives, skewers and twist ties (such as you would find on a bag of bread) bent into different shapes.

Many of the clay carving tools you would find in an art supply store also work with sand.... unfortunately, many are made from materials that rust amazingly fast. That's why we make (and sell!) our own line of specialty carving tools.

In the following pages you will find pictures and descriptions of our tools in use.



sandy feet sez... See more carving tool options and updates at <http://sandcastlecentral.com/toolpages/>

Specialty Tools: SOB Designs

We are constantly expanding our line of sandcastle carving tools and we use them ourselves. They are made from stainless steel and the ends are capped with black or red plastic nipples to make them easier to find in a sandpile. The complete set includes everything you see on this page.



Pastry Knife



This is the serious sand sculptor's basic tool of choice, and can be found wherever they sell cake-decorating tools. They usually come with round ends - we like to square them up for carving windows and doors.

Square Tools: Fat & Skinny



Use these tools for scooping out doors and windows as well as square columns. May also be used to carve stairs and deepening the spaces between round columns.

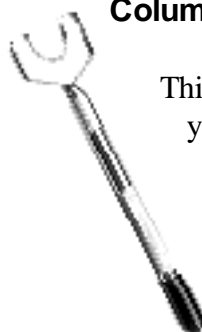


Loop Tool



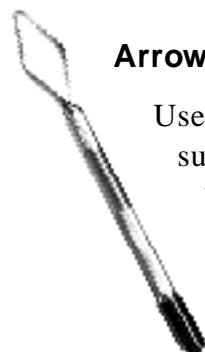
This tool is useful for carving scalloped edges on overhangs and arched doorways and window tops. Spoons and melonballers perform similar tricks.

Column Tool



This nifty little device will have you carving smooth, uniform columns in no time flat. You can make yourself a crude column tool from a plastic fork.

Arrowhead Tool



Use this tool for surface detail, such as bricks and rocks. Also useful for quick lettering. An unmodified steak knife can be substituted.

Tiny Trowel

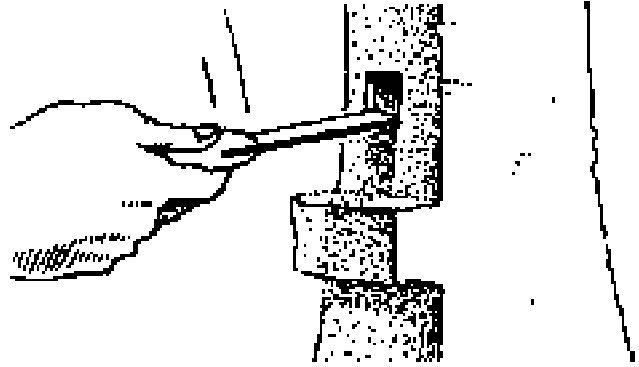


Useful for little windows, facial features and any small-scale carving. The off-set handle helps you get into hard-to-reach places.

Carving/Adding Detail To Structures

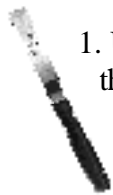
Once you have built some towers and walls, you will no doubt be quite impressed with the massive structures you are able to toss up in the air. Now you need to concentrate on making those structures pretty.

The following carving suggestions should in no way be construed as a leash on your creativity. They are included to give you ideas and help get you started.



carve a roof

Give your tower a castle-like rooftop.



1. Using a pastry knife or similar straight-edged tool, start in the center of the very top of the tower and slice downward at an angle. Repeat on the other side, so that you are left with a peaked "housetop" roof shape.



2. Move around to the side and, starting in the center of the peak, cut at the same angle downward on both sides so that you have a pyramid-shaped roof. This right here is a pleasing shape for a tower to have, but you can take it one step further...

3. Carefully shave the corners off the pyramid to form a cone shape. Take your time, look at it from all the angles, shaving more when necessary to achieve a round, symmetrical cone.



4. Use a brush to smooth out the knife marks and get rid of loose sand.

sandy feet sez...



Always start from the highest point of your structure and work down so that falling sand doesn't cover what you have already carved.

Undercut A Roof Line

Most sand has some natural clay content. This should allow you to undercut - and if the clay content is fairly high you can undercut quite drastically. Position your carving tool at the cone (or pyramid's) widest point and press in about 1/2 inch. Pull the knife straight down to define the roofline. Do not tip your knife up at an angle as this will break off the overhang.

Now go ahead and smooth the tower beneath the roof by holding your carving tool in a vertical position and slicing off the bulging sand. Keep your tower walls as vertical as possible -- try not to "scoop" the sand out. It will be a lot easier to add detail like doors and windows if your tower is straight up and down.



Scalloped Edges



Use our loop tool (or a similarly shaped object, such as a melon-baller or a spoon) to cut scalloped edges out of your undercut roof or balcony.

Again, be careful not to tip your tool or scoop the sand out. Slice in horizontally and then pull straight down for best results.



Doors & Windows



Details like doors and windows will make your tower look more like something actually inhabitable. Cut your details deep to create more shadow - and make your piece more interesting to the casual eye.

You can use a variety of tools to carve doors and windows. It is a good idea to carry several sizes in your tool pouch as doors and windows come in all sizes. Anything with a square edge will work, including our pastry knives and tiny trowels. (The tiny trowel is especially useful if you want really skinny windows or are working in very small scale.) Steak knives with the points broken off also work very well.

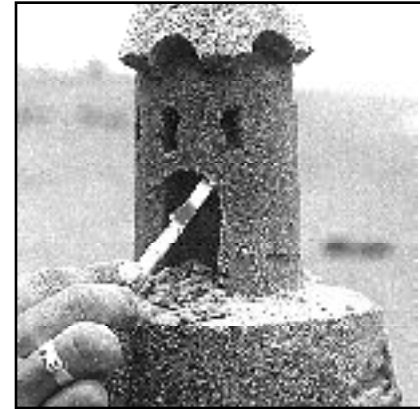
Press the tool's edge into the sand to define your window, then carefully scrape out the loose sand to form an indentation.



Doors

Our large square tool helps you make uniformly sized straight doors every time.

Insert the square tool at the top of where you want your door to be positioned and pull it straight down. You may have to scrape up and down a few times to achieve the desired depth.



Arched Door

Roll the loop tool around the top of the doorway to give it a rounded, arched shape.



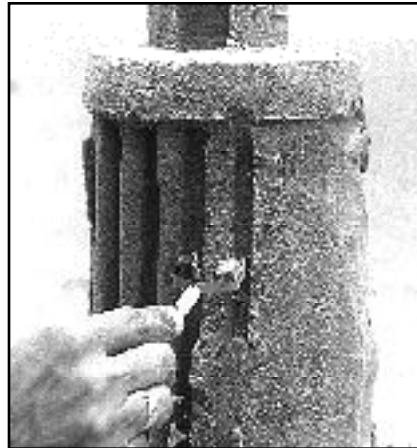
Columns

Carving columns is a quick and dirty way to create a lot of shadows fast.

Make sure you are working with a smooth, vertical surface -- preferably under some sort of overhang. Draw the column tool straight down, shaving a thin layer. Continue running the tool over the same track, up and down, until you have a smooth round column.

You can deepen the shadows - even carve all the way around them so that they are free-standing - with the skinny square tool.

Use a brush to get rid of the loose sand and make your columns smooth.



sandy feet sez...

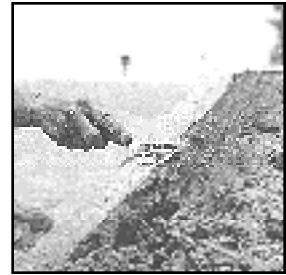
Do not use these tools to dig or gouge - the edges will crumble and it's hard on the tools. You will get better results if you lightly shave off multiple, thin layers.

Carving a Staircase

People love to see stairs carved out of sand -- and they are very easy to create so make LOTS of them!

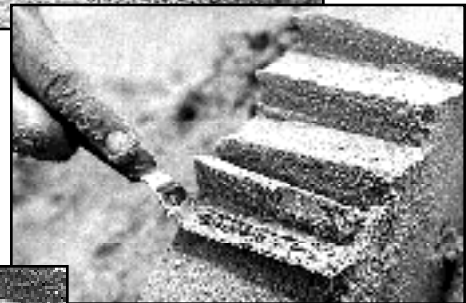
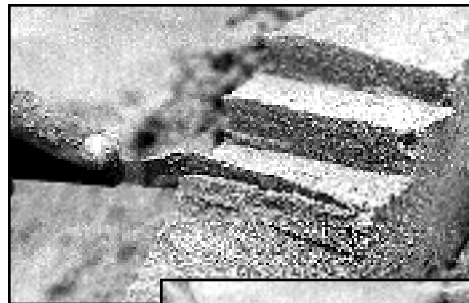


Start with a wall that is built on an incline. Smooth the surface with your favorite slicing tool to form a ramp. If you wish your staircase to spiral, build a curving wall or carve your ramp into the side of a (fat) tower. Now cut in the stairs.



The Easy Way:

Using a pastry knife or similar tool, each step involves two cuts - a vertical then a horizontal. The horizontal cut lifts the sand out to form the step. Be sure to keep your knife straight. Avoid any tendency you might have to saw at the sand - make short, clean cuts instead.



The Easier Way:



Cutting stairs with our large square tool is a one-step process - just drag the tool across the ramp where you want the step to be.



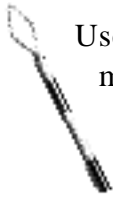
Spiral Staircases

Stairs do not have to be straight, nor do they have to be cut from a wall. Anywhere you can carve a ramp - including spiraling around a tower - you can carve stairs.

If your tower is not wide enough to carve a spiraling ramp around, try building a narrow wall around it so it is right up next to it, then carve into a spiraling ramp. Cut the stairs so they follow the shape of the tower. Try undercutting the staircase to give your tower a graceful curve.



Surface Detail



Use the SoB arrowhead tool or similarly pointed implement to carve interesting surface detail on your carved surfaces.

If you try this on dry sand, it will crumble on you so make sure you are working with a structure stacked from very wet sand and carved back to where it is solid. Start by carving your surface very smooth and vertical.



Bricks and Rocks

Drag the tool across the surface so that it scoops out the sand in a groove.



Draw straight lines to create bricks (right) -- or irregular circles (left) to create rocks. Soften the lines by brushing gently with a paintbrush. Make them more defined by blowing loose sand out of the cracks with a drinking straw.



Lettering

You can even do simple lettering with this tool. To make it more legible, scrape your indentations deeper and flatter with the tiny trowel.



Amazin' Walter uses a lot of surface detail in his carving

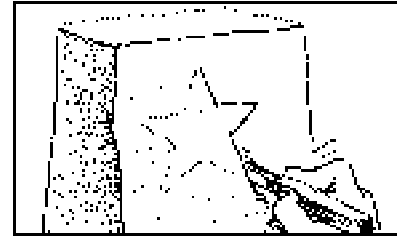
Bas-Relief Carving

Try carving a name or logo in bas-relief by cutting in layers to create shadows.

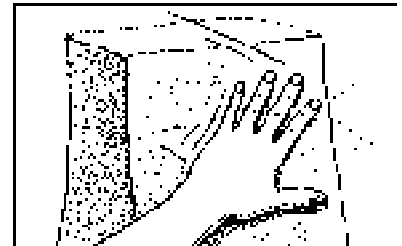
some samples of sandy feet's logo-carving



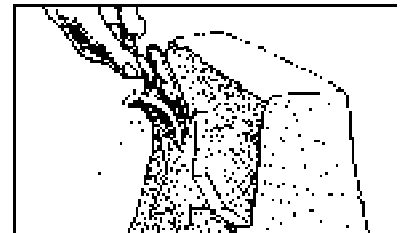
Start by lightly sketching in your design with any pointed tool on a surface that has already been flattened and smoothed.



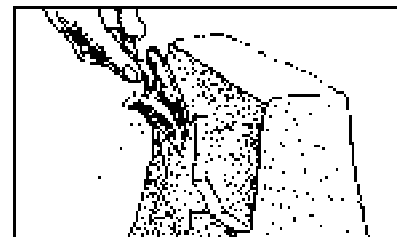
If you are unhappy with the sketch, just erase it and try again.



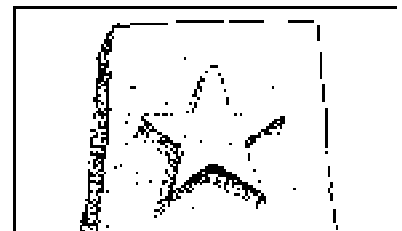
When you like what you have sketched, hold the blade of your carving tool flat against the surface and slice away the top layer of sand around the design. This is where the offset handle really comes in handy.

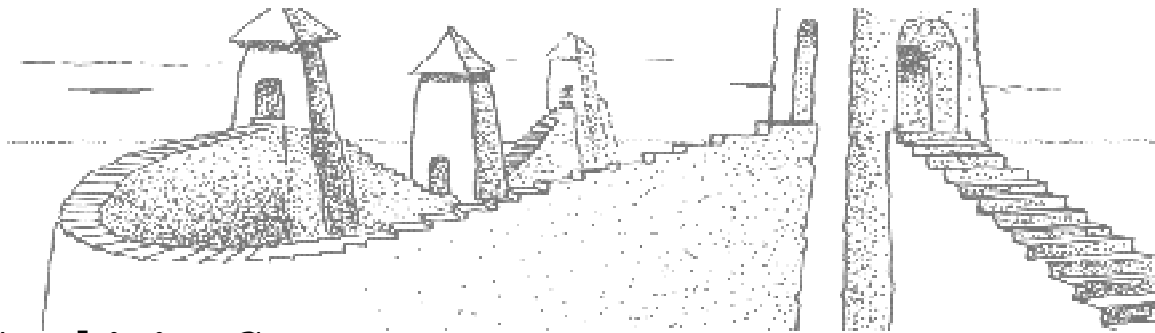


Repeat until you reach the desired depth. Deeper cuts result in more shadows - making your design easier to read.



“Innies” vs. “Outties” - Bas relief carving is just a matter of creating layers - experiment with multiple layers or cutting your design in instead of out.





Combining Structures



*pack a
base...*

*build another tower close to the
first one...*

*create
a
bridge...*

*continue building top of second
tower...*



smooth and add detail!

One tower by itself does not a castle make. Four or five towers joined by bridges and graceful staircases is another story...

Bridge Two Towers

Use the loose sand accumulated from carving the first tower as the base for a second. Pack it flat so that nothing starts sliding!

It will help if your first tower has a balcony or ledge of some sort for anchoring your bridge. Stack your second tower to



the height of the balcony.

Using your (or a buddy's) hand for support, (gently) plop a very large handful of wet sand between the two towers. Be sure to do the jiggle thing to help the wet sand settle. Hold in place until water has run through, then (gently) pull the supporting hand free. Continue building your second tower, being very careful not to apply too much pressure on the top.

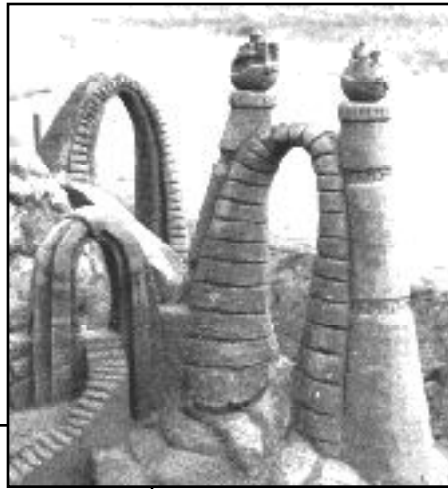
If your bridge has some slope to it, you can easily carve it into a staircase.



Towers, walls, arches and balls can be combined in a wide variety of ways.

Here we give you some sketches and photos of pieces we have done to give you some ideas.

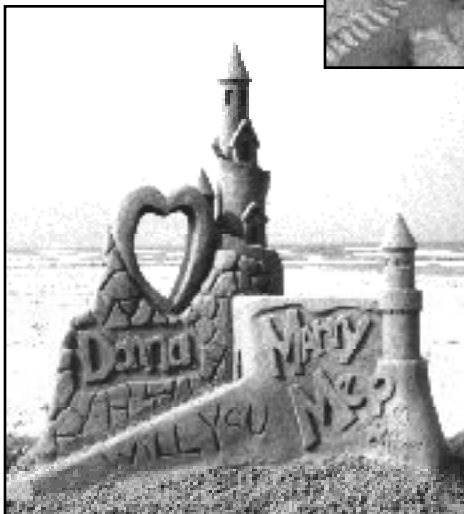
*Right: This arch/
tower/balls
combination was an
element in our first
world championship
entry*



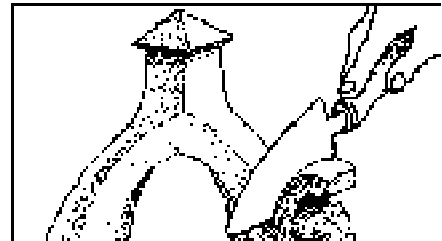
tower/arch



wall/arches

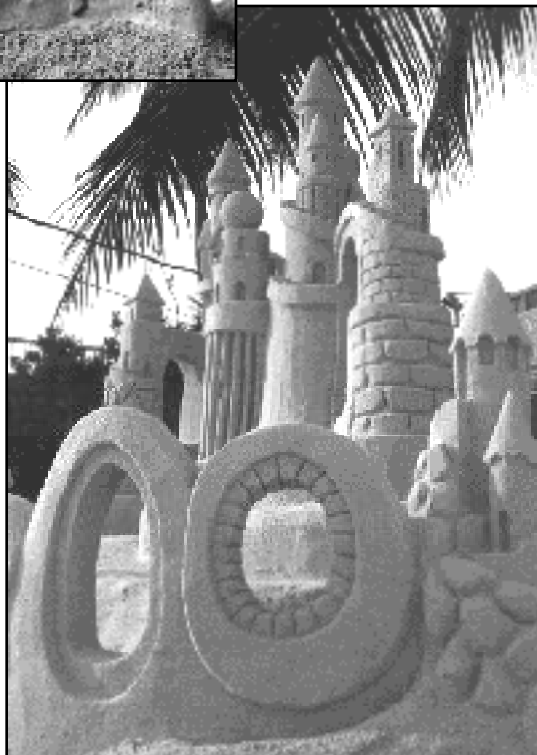


Left: She said yes

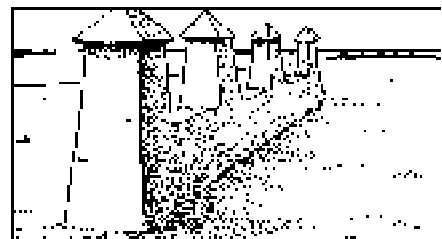


arch/tower

*Right: Having
fun with arches
in Key West*



tower/arch



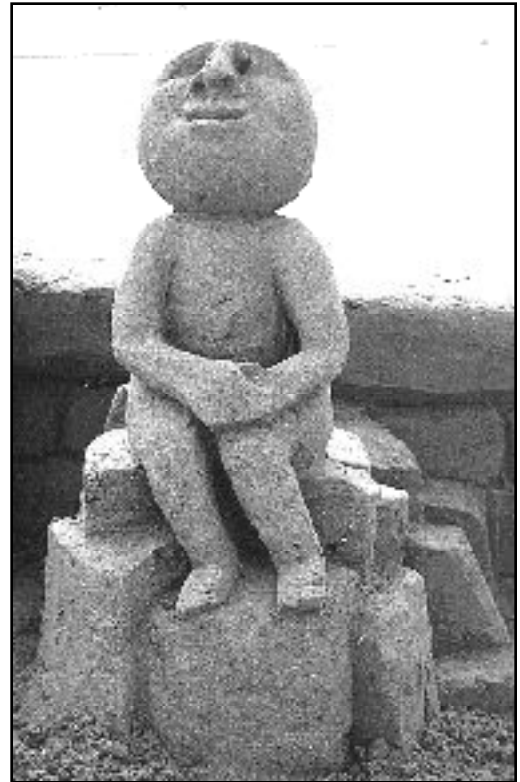
wall/towers

But I Don't Want to Build a Castle!

We love to build castles - but our building technique lends itself to other subjects as well.

To the right is one of sandy feet's "moon men." This started out as a fat tower with a "South Texas Snowball" on top.

Below you will note a string of paperdoll kids holding hands. You can build something similar by either constructing a wall and cutting through or building a series of fat arches.



Right: The sandy computer was carved from a very fat, short tower.



Above: "Dunedog's House" was constructed from a combination of towers, walls & arches.



Left: Try carving a simple "rockface"

About the Author...

Lucinda “sandy feet” Wierenga got serious about sand back in 1985 and has moved and organized a whole bunch of the stuff. She has been competing at the masters level since 1987 and over the past decade has taught literally thousands of people how to have more fun at the beach.

Before that, she was serious about teaching high school English.

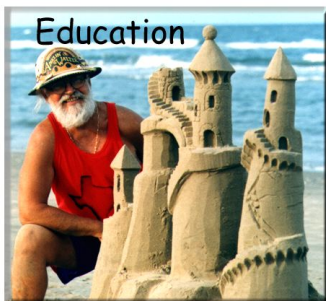
She finds teaching sand castle lessons infinitely preferable.



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